23rd November 1963]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The decision of the Chair whether there is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege or not will be given in the next sitting.

V.—CALLING ATTENTION TO DAMAGES TO PLANTAIN AND BETELVINES GARDENS IN THANJAVUR AND SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICTS.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received a notice under Rule 41 from the hon. Members Sri M. Kalyanasundaram, Sri K. A. Mathialagan, Sri K. S. Mani and Sri K. B. Palani.

SRI K. A. MATHIALAGAN: Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Works to a matter of urgent public importance, viz. :—

"Heavy damages caused to the plantain and betel-leaf gardens in some parts of Thanjavur and South Arcot districts due to the heavy rain and cyclone during the month of October 1963 and the necessity for giving immediate relief measures to the affected agriculturists."

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to cyclone followed by heavy downpour of rains with high winds on 21st October 1963 and 22nd October 1963, damages were caused to the plantain, betelvines, paddy and sugarcane crops in certain taluks of Thanjavur and South Arcot districts. The extent of damage caused in the two districts is estimated as follows :—

Damage to irrigation sources.

Damage to crops—

SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.

Name of crop.	*Total extent damaged.*		*Estimated value of loss.*
(1)	(2)		(3)
	A.	C.	
1 Paddy	463	68	Total loss in 50 per cent of the extent Rs. 8,86,000.
2 Sugarcane	6,883	61	
3 Plantain	78	63	Badly damaged.
4 Betelvine	104	49	Badly damaged.

THANJAVUR DISTRICT.

1 Paddy (Kuruvai) ..	530	00	Loss of 50 per cent of the yield.
2 Plaintain	1,518	34	Loss of over 50 per cent of the yield in an area of 712·06 acres.
3 Betelvine	95	36	Third and second year crops only damaged and that too not extensively.
4 Sugarcane	..		No damage.

Damage to irrigation sources.

South Arcot district : Six irrigation tanks in Villupuram taluk, six in Vridhachalam taluk, nine in Tirukoilur taluk, three in Kallakurichi taluk and one in Cuddalore taluk are reported to have breached. Prompt steps were taken to close the breaches in the minor irrigation tanks with the assistance of the villagers and the Revenue and Development Officers. In respect of the P.W.D. tanks, necessary action was taken by the officers of that department. It is reported that no damages were caused to houses, crops, human lives and cattle due to the breaches.

Thanjavur district.—There were breaches in Samudram Eri, Kannanar river and river Nandalar in Thanjavur district, but there was no damage to the crops due to the breaches as the water completely drained seen after the closure of the breaches.

Relief measures.—The question of giving relief by way of grant of loan as indicated below to the owners of plantain and betelvine garden is being examined by the Government :—

(i) grant of loss of Rs. 200 per acre to the owners of plantain garden where the damage to the plantain is 50 per cent and more. The loan to be recovered in four equal annual instalments;

(ii) grant of loan of Rs. 500 per acre to the owners of betelvine garden whose crops have been damaged to enable them to recultivate the damaged extent. The loan to be recovered in four equal annual instalments.

The question of granting relief by way of loan to the sugarcane growers in South Arcot district is also under the consideration of the Government. The Collector has been asked to furnish certain particulars. On receipt of the particulars, orders will be passed. The grant of remission of land revenue or water-cess on paddy, plantain, betelvine and sugarcane crops which have been damaged is also being examined by the Government and full particulars have been called for from the Collectors of South Arcot and Thanjavur. On receipt of the particulars, orders will be passed granting relief to the extent necessary.

I may therefore inform the House that all possible efforts have been taken to give relief to the ryots affected by the cyclone wherever necessary.

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) Election to Madras Land Improvement Board

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to announce that three nominations for election to the Madras Land Improvement Board have been received. As the number of candidates duly nominated